USERS' EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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UEC Chair

The Users' Executive Committee exists to facilitate communication, in all forms, between the community of users and the NSLS administration. Its membership is listed in the caption of the accompanying photograph. We conduct an annual user meeting and three public town meetings each year, followed by discussions with the NSLS and Brookhaven Laboratory staff and management to discuss relevant issues. I am grateful to all of the members of the UEC and the staff and directorate of the NSLS and BNL for the time, thoughtfulness, and candor which they have brought to this work. The annual user meeting drew 368 attendees, 80% of whom attended one or more of the six workshops. These covered a wide range of topics: the application of synchrotron radiation to magnetic materials, precision fabrication with hard x-rays, strategy and methods for area detector data collection, *in situ* applications of x-ray absorption fine structure, multiple wavelength anomalous dispersion, and opportunities in polymer research. The keynote speech was given by Malcolm Browne, Pulitzer Prize-winning Senior Science Writer of The New York Times, who spoke on "Lamplighters and Tool Makers." The users also heard from NSLS Chairman Michael Hart, from William Oosterhuis of the Department of Energy, and from seven scientists who covered a fraction of the spectrum of current research at the NSLS.

Two of the important discussions in which the UEC is currently participating are future operating conditions and the review of all of the Participating Research Teams. In the first case, some of the X-Ray Ring users wish to increase the electron energy from 2.584 to 2.8 GeV to provide a harder spectrum, particularly for certain gamma ray experiments using LEGS. Operation of the storage ring at the higher energy has been demonstrated, but it is necessary to weigh the impact on the programs of all of the users. Discussions are also open between the accelerator physicists and the users of the VUV Ring over the feasibility and desirability of operating in a "top-off" mode. The NSLS has embarked on the project of renegotiating its relationship with all of the PRTs, starting with a review of each PRT by the Science Advisory Committee, which reports to the NSLS chair. The user community at large is represented by the chair of the UEC as an ex-officio member of the SAC. I believe that there are very important issues here for the future of the facility, as we seek the means to assure access to the large and continuously evolving community of users. At the present time, there are some existing PRTs which are insufficiently funded and staffed to be able to operate full time, while there are others which have insufficient beam time to satisfy the needs of their members, as well as groups who are interested in forming new PRTs.

One change in the pattern of usage is reflected in the formation of a new Special Interest Group devoted to industrial users of the NSLS. Some aspects of the current access policy are inappropriate for industrial research, and this group is seeking to effect changes which will improve the utility of the NSLS to its membership.

With the continued growth of synchrotron radiation facilities in the world, we see the use of x-rays, infrared, and ultraviolet light from such sources becoming more of a commodity and less of an independent enterprise. This forces a hard-headed look at cost effectiveness, and the NSLS has an enviable record. No other Department of Energy supported synchrotron facility comes within a factor of two of our productivity (2268 registered users active during FY 1996/ $30.7M annual budget).

1996 has been another year of very strong scientific output at the NSLS. Even a casual glance at the abstracts and publication lists in this volume will show the reader that there is a tremendous variety of interesting work going on here. We have become used to the excellent operating conditions at the Light Source, and it is worthwhile to reflect on the efforts of the NSLS staff that have led to the continuous improvements in beam brightness, stability, and reliability over the years. At the same time, this is above all a user facility, and it is the scientific programs of the users which drive the health of the NSLS. I have every reason to look forward to having a vital facility here long into the future.

Users' Executive Committee and
Special Interest Group Representatives

(Front, from left to right)
Michael Dudley (SUNY@ Stony Brook), Eva Rothman (BNL-NSLS), Peter Stephens (SUNY@ Stony Brook), Ian Robinson (U. of Illinois), and Doon Gibbs (BNL-Physics).

(Back, from left to right, standing)
Richard Harlow (The DuPont Co.), Paul Zschack (ORNL), Carl Zimba (MIT), Thomas Russell (U. of Massachusetts), Mark Chance (Albert Einstein College of Medicine), Stephen Ginell (ANL), D. Peter Siddons (BNL-NSLS), David Johnson (BNL-Chemistry), Kim Mohanty (BNL-Physics), Ralf Wehlitz (U. of Tennessee), and Benjamin Ocko (BNL-Physics).

Absent from photo are Steven Whisnant (U. of South Carolina) and Yves Idzerda (Naval Research Lab).